

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application. Claims 3-8 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-2 with a species (2) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dang et al. (Polymer Preprints April, 2002). The Dang et al. paper was first presented at the 223rd ACS National Meeting in Orlando, Florida on April 7-11, 2002 (copy attached).

However, as shown in the attached 37 C.F.R. §1.131 Declaration by Dr. Narayanan Venkatasubramanian (one of the named inventors), all of the compositions (monomer and polymer) reported in the Dang et al. (Polymer Preprints April, 2002) were synthesized by the inventors prior to April 7, 2002. In particular, the relevant synthesis dates are as follows:

1,5-Naphthalenedicarboxylic acid (monomer) : 07/23/01

1,5-Naphthalenebenzobisthiazole (polymer): 08/28/01 and again, 11/27/01

Moreover, as the Examiner is aware, the 1,5-Naphthalenebenzobisoxazole composition was not even reported in the April 2002 publication. Notwithstanding the above, the date of first synthesis of 1,5-Naphthalenebenzobisoxazole composition by Applicants was 02/15/02.

Thus, the above facts clearly show that the inventors conceived and reduced to practice the subject matter of the present invention before April 7, 2002. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the attached declaration by Dr. Venkatasubramanian should remove the Dang et al (Polymer Preprints April, 2002) as §103(a) art against the present invention.

Conclusions

In light of the foregoing remarks and attached Declaration, it is submitted that claims under consideration are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the claims be reconsidered, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn, and the claims be allowed.

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this matter, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at (937) 255-2838.

Respectfully submitted,

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